Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism

Newsletter

Spring 1991 Volume 1 Number 1

About the Vryonis Center

The Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism is an academic research center that provides opportunities for Greek Americans and the community at large to participate in activities focusing on the study of the Hellenic world and the Greek-American community. Over the last few years, conferences, lectures, and other events sponsored by the Center have addressed a variety of topics, including modern Greek politics and culture, Byzantine history, the Cyprus issue, and Greeks in the diaspora.

The goal of the Center is to expand and diversify its cultural outreach program while also meeting the needs of academics who wish to conduct research. This goal will be realized through a program of expansion made possible by the generosity of Angelo K. Tsakopoulos. In the near future, the Tsakopoulos endowment will provide the institute with its own grounds and buildings. The new site will become the permanent Sacramento headquarters for the Center, providing conference facilities, an amphitheater, and a museum for its activities. In the new headquarters, the Center's library, known as the *Tsakopoulos Hellenic Library,* will expand to a 100,000-volume collection. The library will have state-of-the-art research tools for both scholars and people with diverse cultural backgrounds in the community who wish to learn more about Hellenism. Another important function of the Vryonis Center is the publication of books, monographs, and conference proceedings.

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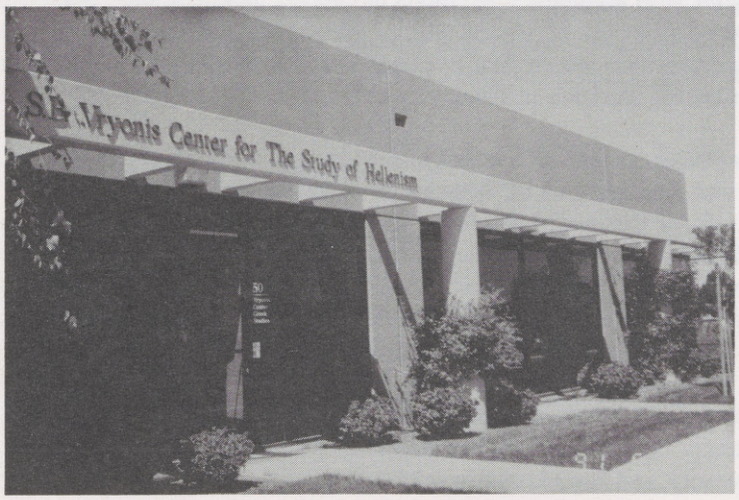

A Note from the Director

This spring, the Vryonis Center begins a new phase as it embarks on the publication of its newsletter. The newsletter will be published quarterly and will feature information on the Center's past activities and forthcoming events, and related activities in the Hellenic world that fall within the Center's scope and objectives. It will also provide news on some of the most important and interesting acquisitions of the *Tsakopoulos Hellenic Library.*

Here at the Vryonis Center, we draw inspiration in our work from Angelo K. Tsakopoulos. Part of the greatness of this man is that he dislikes praise for the many good things he is doing. But the Vryonis Center owes so much to him and his vision that we believe it is only proper to acknowledge his contribution publicly.

Two years have passed since the Center commenced its operations in Sacramento. Undoubtedly, in order to create the major academic research institute and think tank that the Center aspires to be, a great deal more time is required to develop its human and material resources. Yet, during these two years, the Center has made solid accomplishments. It has organized or cosponsored seven conferences. It has initiated its own publication series. It has built a library of over 15,000 volumes. And it has begun a collection of archival material that is of great historical value to the Greek-American community.

This is only the beginning, however. The Vryonis Center has undertaken the commitment to grow and become a preeminent academic research center which benefits not only the Greek-American community, but society at large as well. After all, the spirit of Hellenism radiating from the Vryonis Center is uplifting, enlightening and, above all, ecumenical.

Christos P. Ioannides
Director

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The Tsakopoulos Hellenic Library

As the Vryonis Center expands, the *Tsakopoulos Hellenic Library* will become a unique collection of scholarly books, periodicals, archives, newspapers, and microfilm that are not being systematically collected by other institutions. As the library realizes its full potential, it will contain material not found in any other library in the country and will also house works under one roof which are now found only by searching in various universities and private collections throughout the United States. Researchers at universities and other academic institutions in the United States will be able to access the library's bibliographic catalogue through a computer link with the Vryonis Center.

A librarian will become a permanent staff member of the Center this summer and will complete the process of cataloguing more than 15,000 books presently on the shelves. The librarian will also establish the library's computerized data bank and oversee the acquisition of new books and archival material. Although the books currently in the library are not yet fully catalogued, visitors are welcome to come to the library to browse among the stacks and read the books on the premises. The library is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The library's acquisitions include books and periodicals covering all phases of Greek history, including the Classical era, the Byzantine period, Ottoman rule, the development of the modern Greek state, the period following World War Two, and contemporary Greece. Volumes on related topics involving the study of Europe, the Middle East, the Balkans, the Soviet Union, and Turkey are also included in the collection. The books are in a variety of languages, including Greek, Turkish, Bulgarian, Serbian, Rumanian, Russian, Persian, Arabic, and Western European languages. The Center will purchase an additional 15,000 books in the immediate future and will continue acquiring rare archival material on various aspects of Hellenism.

Partial view of the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Library

Vryonis Center Publication Series

The Vryonis Center's first publication series entitled *Hellenism: Ancient, Mediaeval, Modern* is already underway. The first book of the series, *Greece on the Road to Democracy: From the Junta to PASOK, 1974-1986,* was edited by Speros Vryonis, Jr. and was published in January 1991. This volume of essays examines the development of the political parties, foreign policy, economy, press, education, and arts of Greece since the country's return to democracy in 1974.

The second publication series that the Vryonis Center has embarked upon is *Subsidia Balcanica, Islamica et Turcica.* The first book of this series is *In Turkey's Image: The Transformation of Occupied Cyprus into a Turkish Province* by Christos P. Ioannides. In the book, Dr. Ioannides examines the ideological and political dynamics in Turkey which drive its policies toward Cyprus and Greece. It will be published in June.

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About the Vryonis Center

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In the future, the Vryonis Center looks forward to organizing academic events with Greek Studies centers all over the United States. In California, the institute is cooperating with the Center for Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University and the Caloyeras Center for Modern Greek Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. The Vryonis Center also plans to begin exchange programs with academic institutions in Greece, including the University of Athens and the University of Thessaloniki. Fellowships will be established to assist Greek students who would like to come to the United States to conduct research and to enable students in American universities to carry out studies in Greece.

The Vryonis Center operates as a non-profit institute in a suburb of Sacramento, California. It was founded in Los Angeles in 1985 through the efforts of Dr. Speros Vryonis, Jr., a distinguished scholar of Byzantine and Ottoman Studies on the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles, at the time. The Center was named in memory of Dr. Vryonis's son, Speros Basil. Following Dr. Vryonis's move to the east coast in September 1988 to become director of the Alexander S. Onassis Center for Hellenic Studies at New York University, the Center was moved to Sacramento. In March 1989, Dr. Christos P. Ioannides became director of the Center. He received his doctorate in Modern Greek and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Pennsylvania and has taught at Queens College, CUNY, Seton Hall University, and Panteios University in Athens.

Vryonis Center Activities

Past Activities

Oct. 6-7, 1989: *Cyprus: Domestic Dynamics and External Constraints,* a conference at the University of California, Berkeley. Held in conjunction with the Center for Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University.

Jan. 11-13, 1990: *Byzantine Civilization and the Slavic World,* a conference at the University of California, Los Angeles. Cosponsored with UCLA's Department of Slavic Languages and Literature and Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and the Alexander S. Onassis Center for Hellenic Studies at New York University.

April 21-22, 1990: *The Odyssey of Hellenism: From Homer to the End of the Twentieth Century,* a two-day inaugural conference in Sacramento to mark the official opening of the Vryonis Center headquarters in California's capital city. Twenty professors from universities in the United States and Greece spoke at the conference which was held at California State University, Sacramento. Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) was the keynote speaker at the conference banquet.

May 3-5, 1990: *The Diaspora in Foreign Policy,* a seminar in Athens co-organized by the Institute for International Relations at Panteios University.

Feb. 24, 1991: *Greece: The Challenges of the 1990s,* a symposium focusing on the politics and economy of Greece from the perspective of the country's membership in the European Community. Held in conjunction with the American Hellenic Professional Society at California State University, Sacramento.

Mar. 8, 1991: *Byzantine Society and Civilization in the Eleventh Century,* a symposium at the University of California, Los Angeles. Co-organized by the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the Alexander S. Onassis Center for Hellenic Studies at New York University.

May 1, 1991: Presentation in Sacramento of the documentary *The Greek Civilization and its Influence around the World* by its producer, Greek film maker Dimitris Manolesakis. Highlights of the film were scenes from the lives of Greeks in villages in Corsica and Syria.

Upcoming Activites

Sept. 1991: The Vryonis Center will participate in a conference in Australia entitled *Greeks in English-Speaking Cultures: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.* This conference will be organized by the Australian Hellenic Studies Forum.

Spring 1992: *The Greek Americans: The Road to Excellence,* a conference in Sacramento organized by the Vryonis Center.

The Vryonis Center

Announces a Conference in Sacramento

in Spring 1992

THE GREEK AMERICANS: THE ROAD TO EXCELLENCE

The purpose of this conference, organized by the Vryonis Center, will be to examine the achievements of Greek Americans and focus on the underlying reasons for their success. The Center will bring together Greek Americans who have excelled in all walks of life. In striving toward excellence, they have made major contributions to their own community and to American society. Details of this conference will be announced in the fall newsletter.

New Location

The Vryonis Center has expanded. In March 1991, it moved from its previous location in central Sacramento to a more spacious, new facility in Rancho Cordova, about ten miles east of California's capital. Our new address is:

Vryonis Center
3140 Gold Camp Drive, Suite 50
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Telephone: (916) 631-9099
Fax: (916) 631-7175

To reach the Center from downtown Sacramento, take Highway 50 east and exit the freeway at the Zinfandel off-ramp. Turn right on Zinfandel. At the first intersection, turn left onto White Rock Road. At the second signal, turn left onto Prospect Park Drive. Then turn right at Gold Camp Drive.

The Center is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Vryonis Center Board of Trustees

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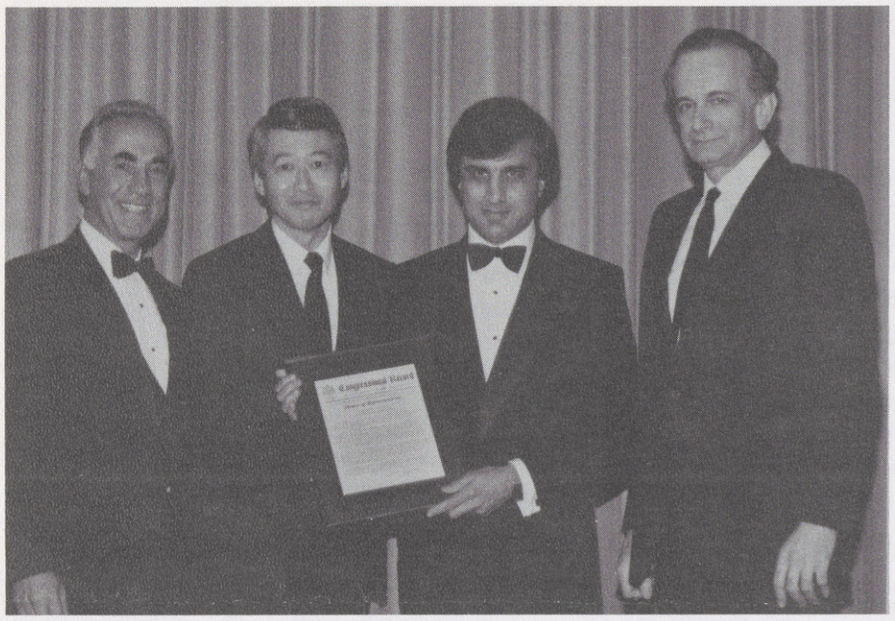

The director of the Vryonis Center, Dr. Christos P. Ioannides, holding Congressman Robert T. Matsui's Congressional Salute to the Center. In the picture, from left to right, are Angelo K. Tsakopoulos, Robert T. Matsui, Christos P. Ioannides and Speros Vryonis, Jr. Mr. Matsui presented the Salute to Dr. Ioannides at the banquet which closed the Center's inaugural conference in Sacramento on April 22, 1990.

CONGRESSIONAL SALUTE TO THE CENTER

On April 19, 1990, California Congressman Robert T. Matsui honored the Vryonis Center in the U.S. Congress by announcing the official opening of the institute's new headquarters in Sacramento. In his Congressional Salute to the Center, Mr. Matsui explained the purpose and goals of the institute to the members of Congress and extended his best wishes for its success in the future. The Salute by Mr. Matsui, who has long been known for his support of activities contributing to the cultural diversity of the community, was published in the Congressional Record (below).

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 101st CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

WASHINGTON, D.C., THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1990

House of Representatives

CONGRESSIONAL SALUTE TO
THE SPEROS BASIL VRYONIS CENTER

MR. SPEAKER, it gives me great pleasure to stand before my colleagues today and call their attention to an exceptional educational institution that will officially open this month in Sacramento, California: The Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism.

Originally founded in Los Angeles, California, the Vryonis Center has relocated to the Sacramento area and will officially open its doors to the Sacramento community on April 22, 1990. The Center is an educational institution dedicated to scholarly research the Greek civilization and culture; placing special emphasis on modern Greek history, society, economy, politics and culture, including the social and cultural dynamics of the Greek-American community. The Center's program will incorporate four interdependent areas of activities: research and documentation, academic programs, scholarly publications, and a cultural outreach program.

This wonderful educational center is made possible by the financial support provided by Mr. Angelo K. Tsakopoulos and the hard work of numerous individuals who also are dedicated to increasing the public awareness of the contributions and effects of the Greek culture and institutions on other peoples and societies. I have no doubt that the operation of the Vryonis Center will be both successful and exciting. This fine establishment will be a welcome addition to the Sacramento community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating those whose tireless efforts and dedication have made this ambitious program of expansion possible. I commend all of you on a job well done, and I offer my best wishes for the Speros Basil Vryonis Center's continued success.

ROBERT T. MATSUI
Member of Congress

VRYONIS CENTER PUBLICATION SERIES

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Two more books in the *Subsidia Balcanica, Islamica et Turcica* series are forthcoming. The first, *Between East and West: The Balkan and Mediterranean Worlds*, by Traian Stoianovich, will be published in two volumes: *Economies and Societies, and Material Culture and Mentalités*. This survey of Mediterranean and Balkan lands, peoples, and cultures consists of studies published by the author, a professor of history at Rutgers University, during a lifetime of scholarship. The second book of this series will be *The Ottoman City and its Parts: Urban Structure and Social Order*, edited by Irene A. Bierman, Rifa'at A. Abou-El-Haj, and Donald Preziosi. It is a compilation of essays on the architecture, art, government and law of Islamic culture.

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